

APPENDIX

1. A labelling composition comprising a random mixture of oligonucleotides which are 6-mers to 8-mers, said composition present in a dry state.

2. A labelling composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition also contains at least one of: a polymerase enzyme; a supply of nucleotides for chain extension; a labelled nucleotide; a dye; a stabiliser; and a buffer.

3. A labelling composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the random mixture is of 6-mer oligonucleotides.

4. A labelling composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition is present in a freeze-dried state.

5. A method of making labelled probes for a nucleic acid template, which method comprises incubating the nucleic acid template under chain extension conditions with the labelling composition of claim 1.

6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the random mixture of oligonucleotides is present at a concentration of 2-10 O.D./ml.